

Giardiasis

Background. Giardiasis is a diarrheal illness caused by a one-celled, microscopic parasite that lives in the intestine of people and animals. Symptoms may include diarrhea, loose or watery stool, stomach cramps, and upset stomach. Symptoms may lead to weight loss and dehydration. Symptoms generally begin one to two weeks after infection and may last two to six weeks. *Giardia* is one of the most common causes of waterborne disease in the United States.

CDC > Division of Parasitic Diseases > Parasitic Disease Information. Health Topics A to Z.

Reporting. In Missouri, giardiasis has been a reportable disease for over ten years. Cases are reported to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) through the Missouri Health Surveillance Information System (MOHSIS). Based on a combination of clinical and laboratory criteria, cases are assigned a status of confirmed, probable, suspect, etc. Only confirmed and probable cases are presented here.

Nationally, giardiasis is a reportable disease. However, giardiasis only became reportable in 2002. Cases are reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). NNDSS data for 2003 was not available at the time of analysis.

